



Cliff Walk Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

5:15pm: Newport Public Library

IN ATTENDANCE

Commission Members: Lesley Brooking Elms, John Hirschboeck, Peter Janaros (Chair), Dave McLaughlin

City of Newport: Scott Wheeler, Building & Grounds Supervisor/Tree Warden

Ombudsman: Bill Corcoran

Citizen: Leigh Schoberth, Preservation Policy Associate - PSNC

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from October 18, 2017 were approved.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. New Entryway/exit to the Walk @ Marble House

Leigh Schoberth from the Preservation Society of Newport County reiterated that unfortunately there is no opportunity for another entry/exit to/from the Walk at the Marble House or other NPS grounds but offered to always lend support in other areas such as trimming and planting where appropriate. As the desire for an additional exit/entrance to the walk between Marine Ave. and Ledge Rd. has been identified in the Open Space Plan, the CWC requested information on what it might theoretically cost and the obstacles involved should any exit/entrances from the Walk at Preservation Society properties be undertaken at some future point in time.

B. Status of repairs between 40 Steps to Ruggles Ave.

Progress in completing the long-delayed job has finally been evidenced and the previous foreman on the job has returned to complete the remaining punch list items. New fencing at the Overlook has been installed but other fence repairs remain. The damaged poured-in- place permeable stone at 40 Steps needs to be replaced (probably not until spring) and cement work at the overlook will be repaired.

C. End of Walk at Bailey's Beach – signage status

The 36" X 24" locator map sign artwork has been delivered to Panier and the angled, horizontal sign is now in production, although won't be installed until next spring.

There has been no response from the Warner's regarding the installation of a 4th map at Ledge Rd. to help guide traffic exiting the trail at that point. Scott mentioned that possible trail grants could be used to place a sign there and at Ruggles and/or Marine.

D. Maintenance Issues:

1. Railings at Ruggles and Anglesea: no action taken
2. Restrooms: heaters have been added in the center room to prolong the season and they'll be painted this winter. Once the restrooms are locked for the winter, the Visitor's Center will be alerted. A check maintenance checklist is still needed.

3. Erosion behind the Breakers: Next steps involve placing snow fencing around the remaining goat paths to the north of the viewing platform and removing any invasives this winter. Additional work awaits completion of the Breaker's master landscape plan.

E. Marine Avenue, Seaview and other rights of way

The infrastructure rain garden project at Marine Ave. remains the first alternate project due to its increase in the scope and cost. Scott has requested the project be scaled back to a more realistic budget level.

Six updated rights-of-way COA signs will be in place by mid-December at designated rights of way.

F. Concessions on the Walk & on-going monitoring

No violations have been evidenced or reported.

G. Brass markers and new map at Ledge Road

Lesley has installed two of the inscribed "CW" markers along the rocky trail section of the Walk near Ledge Rd. However, she cautioned that they were virtually invisible due to their small size and inscription. Lesley will take pictures and forward to the CWC. Scott suggested new brass markers be explored that are more visible and feature the Cliff Walk logo. A trails grant could also be used for this purpose.

H. Future repairs/improvements and fundraising

Dave M. provided recommendations regarding donating by cell phone. It was agreed that Peter and Dave M. will investigate this and other fund-raising opportunities further with the City Manager. Peter will arrange.

Major remedial work identified by Commonwealth Engineering must await future funding opportunities.

I. Coordination of Google website

Peter was to request that Vic Farmer list the Discover Newport phone number on his site should visitors have tourist-related questions. But first, Peter called the Visitor's Center to assess how well they were responding to visitor inquiries and found their responses less than accurate or helpful. John agreed to discuss these concerns further with Cathy Morrison, who is in charge of visitor's information.

J. Input into CRMC regulatory process, specifically Ledge Rd. area

The three vacant lots at the end of Ledge Rd. have been sold. However, Peter will continue to monitor the development of these lots should plans negatively impact the Walk in some fashion.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

The CWC agreed to cancel the December 20 meeting. The next CWC meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2018 at 5:15pm